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Dear Producers and Data Users:

Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.

Mark Harris
Mark Harris
Director

Nebraska Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Nebraska feedlots, with capacities of 1,000 or more head, contained 2.35 million cattle on feed on February 1, up 3 percent from last year and 6 percent above February 1, 2003. Placements of cattle into feedlots during January totaled 425,000 head, up 12 percent from 2004 but 11 percent below 2003. Fed cattle marketings for the month of January totaled 360,000 head, the same as last year but 8 percent below January 2003. Other disappearance during January totaled 15,000 head compared with 20,000 head during January 2004 and 10,000 head during January 2003.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on February 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above February 1, 2004 and 6 percent below February 1, 2003. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.89 million, 7 percent above 2004 but 10 percent below 2003. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.78 million, up slightly from 2004 but down 10 percent from 2003. Other disappearance totaled 74,000 during January, 21 percent below 2004 and 1 percent below 2003.

**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance,
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2004-2005**

State	February 1 Number on Feed ¹			January Placements			January Marketings			January Other Disappearance ²		
	2004	2005	<u>2005</u> <u>2004</u>	2004	2005	<u>2005</u> <u>2004</u>	2004	2005	<u>2005</u> <u>2004</u>	2004	2005	<u>2005</u> <u>2004</u>
	1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent	
Arizona	296	325	110	32	27	84	26	30	115	3	3	100
California	500	525	105	55	59	107	60	63	105	5	6	120
Colorado	1,040	1,060	102	165	175	106	160	185	116	5	10	200
Idaho	275	265	96	41	37	90	64	66	103	2	1	50
Iowa	385	465	121	64	77	120	47	60	128	2	2	100
Kansas	2,420	2,420	100	455	475	104	440	450	102	25	15	60
Nebraska	2,280	2,350	103	380	425	112	360	360	100	20	15	75
New Mexico	117	129	110	17	18	106	13	13	100	2	2	100
Oklahoma	350	350	100	50	55	110	53	52	98	2	3	150
So. Dakota	200	205	103	30	41	137	29	26	90	1	2	200
Texas	2,770	2,720	98	390	425	109	430	395	92	20	10	50
Washington	*195	190	97	*29	30	103	*33	29	88	1	1	100
Other States	310	330	106	46	41	89	60	47	78	6	4	67
United States	*11,138	11,334	102	*1,754	1,885	107	*1,775	1,776	100	94	74	79

* Revised. ¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. ² Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed, February 18, 2005.

**Milk Cows: Licensed Dairy Operations, Number, and Milk Produced by Quarter,
Nebraska and United States, 2003-2004**

State and Month	Licensed Dairy Operations		Milk Cows		Production per Cow		Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Number</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>	
Nebraska								
January - March			66	61			297	267
April - June			65	60			294	266
July - September			63	61			268	254
October - December			62	61			270	264
Annual	500	450	64	61	17,641	17,230	1,129	1,051
United States - Annual	70,375	66,830	9,083	9,010	18,760	18,957	170,394	170,805

Source: USDA NASS Milk Production, February 17, 2005.

Chickens: Inventory By Type, Nebraska and United States, December 1, 2003-2004

Item	Nebraska			United States		
	2003	2004	2004/2003	2003	2004	2004/2003
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Percent</i>
All Chickens	14,223	13,972	98	449,764	454,165	101
Total Layers	11,800	12,003	102	340,979	344,278	101
Pullets 13 weeks old and older but less than 20 weeks	562			41,955		
Pullet chicks and pullets under 13 weeks of age	1,861			58,391		
Total pullets ¹		1,969			101,624	
Other chickens	0	0		8,439	8,263	98

¹ 2004 age break-outs for pullets are not available due to program change.

Source: USDA NASS Chickens and Eggs 2004 Summary, February 2005.

Eggs: Production, Average Number and Eggs per Layer, Nebraska and United States 2003-2004

Item	Nebraska		United States	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Eggs Produced (<i>million</i>)	3,126	3,174	87,473	89,131
Average Number of Layers (<i>thousand</i>)	11,746	11,766	338,393	342,279
Eggs per Layer (<i>number</i>)	266	270	259	260

Source: USDA NASS Chickens and Eggs 2004 Summary, February 2005.

**Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on
February 1, 2005¹**

State	Crop of 2004	
	Production	Total Stocks Feb. 1, 2005 ²
	<i>Thousand Cwt.</i>	
California	3,876	1,900
Colorado	23,148	12,900
Idaho	131,970	75,000
Maine	19,220	11,100
Michigan	13,650	5,300
Minnesota	18,920	10,200
Montana	3,551	3,250
Nebraska	9,288	
New York	5,184	1,300
North Dakota	26,765	15,300
Ohio	1,080	
Oregon	19,775	11,800
Pennsylvania	2,640	900
Washington	93,810	36,500
Wisconsin	30,450	14,500
Other States		4,240
Total 15 States	403,327	204,190

¹ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crops. ² Missing stocks combined into "Other States".

Source: USDA NASS Potato Stocks, February 15, 2005.

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Crop Summary: Marketing Year Average Price and Value of Production, Nebraska and United States, 2002-2004

Crop	Prod. Unit	Price			Value of Production		
		2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
Nebraska		<i>Dollars</i>			<i>1,000 Dollars</i>		
Corn for Grain	Bushels	2.32	2.39	1.95	2,182,656	2,686,838	2,573,415
Sorghum for Grain	Cwt.	4.23	4.19	3.00	37,901	72,738	56,473
Oats	Bushels	2.00	1.53	1.30	4,730	10,052	4,862
Barley	Bushels	1.85	1.90	2.00	237	380	324
All Wheat	Bushels	3.60	3.22	3.20	180,576	269,578	195,360
Winter Wheat	Bushels	3.60	3.22	3.20	180,576	269,578	195,360
Soybeans	Bushels	5.43	7.02	5.05	957,472	1,279,395	1,115,419
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	18.60	17.30	22.80	64,449	54,512	54,173
All Hay (baled)	Ton	85.00	54.00	51.00	481,425	407,290	309,883
Alfalfa Hay (baled)	Ton	85.50	55.00	51.00	346,275	287,100	226,338
All Other Hay (baled)	Ton	79.50	50.50	49.00	135,150	120,190	83,545
All Potatoes	Cwt.	6.10	5.05	5.60	52,527	49,207	52,013
Sugar Beets	Ton	40.00	42.30		30,400	36,420	
Sunflower (all)	Cwt.	12.30	12.10	14.40	3,171	7,003	7,536
Sunflower (oil)	Cwt.	12.10	10.70	13.00	2,178	4,622	4,323
Sunflower (non-oil)	Cwt.	12.90	16.20	17.00	993	2,381	3,213
Proso Millet	Bu.	7.20	3.05	3.05	8,640	9,852	10,294
United States							
Corn for Grain	Bushels	2.32	2.42	1.95	20,882,448	24,476,803	23,032,795
Sorghum for Grain	Cwt.	4.14	4.26	3.05	855,140	964,978	839,210
Oats	Bushels	1.81	1.48	1.40	212,078	224,910	168,015
Barley	Bushels	2.72	2.83	2.50	605,635	755,140	694,038
All Wheat	Bushels	3.56	3.40	3.38	5,637,416	7,929,039	7,191,798
Winter Wheat	Bushels	3.41	3.27	3.30	3,810,235	5,597,974	4,916,122
Soybeans	Bushels	5.53	7.34	5.10	15,252,691	18,013,753	16,098,170
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	17.10	18.40	24.80	519,341	422,793	444,795
All Hay (baled)	Ton	92.40	85.50	89.70	12,338,010	12,006,783	12,197,354
Alfalfa Hay (baled)	Ton	100.00	90.80	97.50	7,137,469	6,724,537	6,977,603
All Other Hay (baled)	Ton	73.80	70.90	70.00	5,200,541	5,282,246	5,219,751
All Potatoes	Cwt.	6.67	5.89	5.62	3,045,310	2,685,822	2,564,165
Sugar Beets	Ton	39.60	41.40		1,097,329	1,270,026	
Sunflower (all)	Cwt.	12.10	12.10	13.20	294,595	316,214	268,364
Sunflower (oil)	Cwt.	11.70	11.30	12.50	241,851	254,076	220,475
Sunflower (non-oil)	Cwt.	13.70	15.20	14.90	52,744	62,138	47,889
Proso Millet	Bu.	7.22	2.95	2.85	26,462	33,730	42,611

Note: All prices in this report are marketing year average prices which do not include allowances or adjustments for commodities under government loan at the end of the marketing year, commodities forfeited to the Commodity Credit Corporation, loan deficiency payments, direct and counter cyclical payments or disaster payments.

Source: USDA NASS Crop Values 2004 Summary, February 2005.

2004 county data for wheat and oats is now available at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/QuickStats/>

2004 county data for corn, soybeans, sorghum, and sunflowers will be available after March 1.

Hired Workers Down 12 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 749,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 9-15, 2005, down 12 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 574,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 175,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.81 per hour during the January 2005 reference week, up 40 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.73 per hour, up 34 cents from last January. Livestock workers earned \$9.19 per hour compared with \$8.83 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate,

at \$8.91 per hour, was up 36 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 36.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 3 percent from a year ago. The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in California, Florida, and in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and Northeast I (New England and New York) regions.

Farm Labor: Number and Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers, Selected Regions and United States, January 11-17, 2004 & January 9-15, 2005 ¹

Region ²	Hired Workers		Wage Rates							
			All Hired Workers		Type of work					
					Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Dollars Per Hour</i>							
Lake	50	43	10.68	10.61	10.11	9.65	9.41	9.67	9.60	9.66
Cornbelt I	23	28	10.70	10.06	9.98	9.40	10.01	8.95	10.00	9.18
Cornbelt II	19	21	10.15	10.63	9.12	9.16	9.79	10.28	9.50	10.07
Northern Plains	23	27	9.75	9.82	9.89	10.26	8.78	8.60	9.11	9.20
Southern Plains	60	50	8.43	9.56	7.46	8.01	7.97	9.35	7.73	8.75
Mountain I	12	12	8.92	9.76	8.29	9.42	8.72	8.82	8.64	8.95
Mountain II	17	17	9.80	9.93	8.75	7.37	8.81	9.65	8.80	8.83
United States	662	574	9.41	9.81	8.39	8.73	8.83	9.19	8.55	9.81

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers.

² Regions consist of the following: Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin; Cornbelt I: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio; Cornbelt II: Iowa, Missouri; Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota; Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas; Mountain I: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming; Mountain II: Colorado, Nevada, Utah.

Source: USDA NASS Farm Labor, February 18, 2005.

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